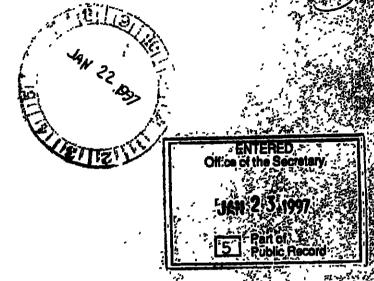
'The Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, l'n'c'

January 16, 1997

VIA FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL

Mr. Vernon Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board Office
of Public Assistance
1201 Constitution Ave, N.W., Room 2229
Washington, D.C 20423



RE: 180 Day Extension Docket of No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 172X) Norfolk Southern 13.miles of rail line located from O & H Junction to Henderson, North Carolina between milepost I-10 and milepost I-14.0.

Dear Secretary Williams:

Preservation North Carolina filed a request for a public use condition for an interim trial and a statement of willingness to assume financial responsibility for the above referenced corridor which was favorably ruled upon on March 1, 1996. The Surface Transportation Board granted an extension until this December to complete the negotiations between Norfolk Southern and Preservation North Carolina In a letter of December 20, 1996 we respectfully requested a fininety day extension. Acting upon the suggestion of Norfolk Southern, we ask that our request of December 1, 1996 be amended to now request a 180 day extension. We do expect to successfully complete an agreement in the near future

I am attaching the December 20, 1996 letter for your reference. If you would grant a 180 day it extension of time, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

J. Myrick Howard
Executive Director

Mysick Howard

cc. James Paschall